

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for purifying human interferon beta from a recombinant human interferon beta-containing culture comprising performing affinity chromatography and reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC),

wherein the affinity chromatography comprises:

adsorbing the interferon beta-containing culture to an equilibrated affinity chromatography column, followed by washing with an equilibration buffer solution;

washing the column with a washing buffer solution A of pH 6.5-7.5 containing 30-60 wt% of propylene glycol and;

washing the column with a washing buffer solution C of pH 6.5-7.5 containing 1-2M NaCl;

washing the column with a washing buffer solution B of pH 6.5-7.5 containing 10-30 wt% of propylene glycol and 1-2M NaCl; and

eluting a human interferon beta-containing fraction with a buffer solution of pH 6.5-7.5 containing 40-60 wt% of propylene glycol and 1-2M NaCl.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein each buffer solution used in the washing and the elution is a sodium phosphate buffer solution or a potassium phosphate buffer solution.
4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein a solution obtained by the affinity chromatography is subjected to diafiltration with an ultrafiltration membrane with a molecular weight cut-off of 10,000 daltons before the RP-HPLC.
5. (Original) The process of claim 4, wherein in the RP-HPLC, a sample obtained by the diafiltration is loaded on a column and then a human interferon beta-containing fraction is eluted at pH 2-5 by a concentration gradient of ethanol containing HCl.